

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



361355

SITE NAME: Flambeau Paper Corporation

ERRIS #: WID V093418614

LOCATION: 200 North First Avenue
Park Falls, WI 54552

SITE HISTORY: Flambeau Paper Corp. is the site of a paper mill that produces paper using the sulphite method. The paper mill has been operated by various owners since 1890. It is presently owned by Pentair, Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota and is operated as Flambeau Paper Corporation. Information from Flambeau Paper's EPA Form 89000-1 (reported 8/10/87) states that between 1974 and 1977, when the plant was operated under ownership of Capital Cities Communication Inc., a plant warehouse was cleared of obsolete raw materials used in the paper-making process. Over a 3-month period, between 50 and 75 drums, carboys, and other containers were buried in what is now Flambeau Paper's wood yard (the site). The contents are unknown and cannot be identified by visual inspection. The materials might have included biocides, solvents, silicate soda, caustic soda, acids, surfactants, or foam killers. This list was generated from materials that are used in the paper-making process.

On May 16, 1989, information was gathered from a site inspection and an interview with personnel that were present during the disposal. It was indicated that the wood yard had a history of dumping/filling throughout the years. The wood yard is currently covered with about 80,000 cords of pulpwood. According to the interview and Flambeau Paper's EPA Form 8900-1, hazardous materials were cleared from a warehouse and disposed of in the wood yard. The materials were of unknown age, but appeared very old and unusable. The containers were rusted and during transportation to the wood yard may have been breached. These materials were placed in a swampy area directly into the groundwater. The Flambeau River is 400' away from the site and could have been or may currently be affected by the disposal.

A private well is located within 400 feet of the site; additional wells may exist within 1200 feet in an industrial area located to the northeast. It is possible that groundwater contamination from the site could affect these wells.

City wells are located approximately 1 1/4 miles to the northeast of the site and 3 1/2 miles to the southwest; possibility of contamination may exist dependent upon the properties of the materials disposed. The majority of the City of Park Falls is within 1 mile of the site, with large portions of the Town of Lake and Eisenstein within a 4-mile radius. Use of the river in this area may expose the population to direct contact with possible contaminants

from the site.

In addition to the above mentioned materials, correspondence from the WDNR with Flambeau Paper in 1977 reveals that the corporation used PCB's in their operation. The letter recommended that Flambeau Paper develop a written procedure for handling, storage, and disposal of PCB's. The possibility exists that substances containing PCB's may have been stored in the warehouse prior to the drum disposal on the wood yard and may have been included in the disposal. On September 22, 1988 during a dredging project across the Flambeau River, tests of dredge spoil material revealed a PCB concentration of 4.96 ppm.

The dredging took place directly below Flambeau Paper's mill within 1/2 mile of the disposal site. This may or may not be related.

GEOLOGY/SOILS: Geology of the site consists of shallow undifferentiated igneous and metamorphic rocks that are covered by till consisting of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders that resulted from glaciation. Soil is thin and composed of sand and gravel. The water table is shallow and easily contaminated under these conditions. The Flambeau River transects the aquifer of concern, however because of its shallow nature, does not present a discontinuity.

**INSPECTION
PRIORITY:**

MEDIUM

At this point, Flambeau Paper Corp. feels there are no signs of problems associated with the disposal. They believe the true number of barrels buried to be less than reported, and these were probably of a non-hazardous nature. Opinion exists that questions whether the barrels were actually disposed of at this site. Disposal took place under a different owner, Capital Cities Communication, Inc.. The wood yard is presently covered with 80,000 cords of pulpwood and access to the site is limited. No soil borings have been taken at this time and exact location of alleged hazardous materials in not known.

From interviews, there is no question that barrels were taken to the site for disposal. A question remains as to what ~~in~~ these barrels contained. During the time period when disposal took place many hazardous substances were being placed under regulatory controls including PCB's and biocides containing mercury. If the materials buried were indeed hazardous there is a good chance that they may have or will contaminate the groundwater and surface water in the Park Falls area.

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Dredge spoil from Flambeau River, 1/2
mile from site, September 22, 1988.

TABLE 2

Chemical Characteristics- Results of analysis

Parameter	Total Concentration (mg/kg)(1)	EP-Toxicity (mg/l)	Maximum Limit (mg/l)
Cadmium	0.78	0.017	1.0
Chromium	39.2	<0.008	5.0
Copper	81.2	<0.011	NA(2)
Iron	26,740	0.112	NA
Lead	35.2	0.056	5.0
Manganese	8,350	6.32	NA
Mercury	0.224	unavailable	0.2
Arsenic	3.26	unavailable	5.0
Selenium	0.20	unavailable	1.0
pH	6.94	-----	---
% Residue	90.4	-----	---
PCB	4.96	-----	---

NOTES:

1) Total metal values expressed on a dry wet basis

2) NA= not applicable





